



West Side Stories

News for Neighborhood Watch Leaders in the Central and Dobson Patrol Districts



Child Safety Program Teaches Kids to "BE ALERT"

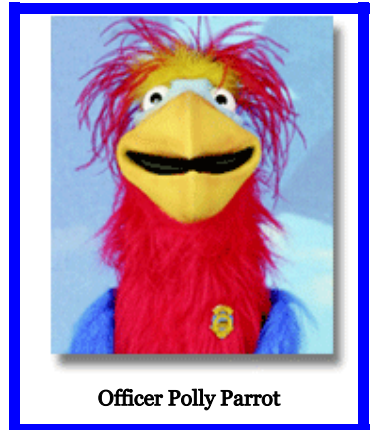
In response to community concern surrounding recent nationwide child abduction cases, the Mesa Police Department has developed a new child safety program, aptly titled "Be Alert." Headed by Crime Prevention Specialist Jerry Quarles, the Crime Prevention Unit offers public presentations at city police substations, local elementary schools and other public venues.

Using magic tricks, props and puppets, the one hour presentation teaches children 5 to 11-years-old about safety subjects such as 911 emergencies, helmet safety, good decision making, team building, self-esteem, honesty skills and abduction safety. With the assistance of Officer Polly Parrot, crime prevention unit members are able to reiterate the correct number to call for help in emergency situations and why it is important for children to ask an adult first, before going anywhere, with anyone, at anytime. Children also learn an important catch phrase - "No! Go! Yell! Tell!"

For example, children should firmly say "no" when asked if they want a ride or money from a stranger. They should "go" away from the stranger. They should "yell" if the stranger persists and they should "tell" their parents or a trusted adult about what happened.

Most importantly, Quarles says a child's safety education should not end with a Be Alert presentation. "If parents don't follow up or reinforce what we've taught them, then our program was just entertainment."

For more information about the Be Alert Program or child safety information, contact Jerry Quarles at (480) 644-2539, or visit our Child Safety Website: http://www.cityofmesa.org/police/child_safety.asp.



Officer Polly Parrot

Did You Know . . .

The Mesa Police Department Explorers will be fingerprinting children on the **4th Tuesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Crime Prevention Unit office at 225 East First Street, Suite 207** in Mesa (northwest of Main Street and Mesa Drive on the south side of 1st Street). Parents are provided with a Child ID Kit, and additional child safety information is available. If you have any questions, please call our office at (480) 644-2300, option 5, during normal business hours (8am - 5pm). This is a **FREE** service and no appointment or reservation is necessary.

http://www.cityofmesa.org/police/child_fingerprinting.asp

**Would You Like To
Learn How You Can
Keep Roof Rats Out Of
Your Neighborhood?**

For more information about roof rats, or information about harvesting and/or donating citrus fruit, please visit the city website:

http://www.cityofmesa.org/citymgmt/roof_rats.asp

THE HEAT IS ON IN MESA

Help Eliminate Auto Theft

Are you using a layered approach to vehicle protection?

Would you like to have your vehicle identification number (VIN) etched on your vehicle window? Would you like a free steering wheel lock? Would you like to sign up for the Watch Your Car Program? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, join the Mesa Police Department at an upcoming H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Automobile Theft) Event at a district substation near you! (Check out the Calendar of Events on the reverse page.)

Since the H.E.A.T. Program's inception, Mesa has seen a 15.5 percent increase in auto theft. To find out more about how you can participate, call (480) 644-2033.



How to Reach Us:

Mesa Police Department
Community Relations Unit
130 N. Robson Street
Mesa, AZ 85201-6697

Holly Hosac
Central/Dobson Districts
Neighborhood Watch
(480) 644-2033
holly.hosac@cityofmesa.org

Central/Dobson Block Captain Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, March 4th
6 to 8 p.m.

Mesa Fire Station #201 - Community Room
360 E. 1st Street

Save the date! Call 644-2033 to RSVP by 3/3/04

Calendar of Events

February 24

Help Eliminate Auto Theft Event
4 to 6 p.m. @ Superstition Substation
2430 S. Ellsworth Road

March 9

"BE ALERT" Child Safety Program
6 p.m. @ Mesa Main Library
64 E. 1st Street

March 30 & April 1

Rape Aggression Defense
(Self Defense for Women)
5 to 9:30 p.m.
Red Mountain Multigenerational Center

March 4

Central/Dobson Block Meeting
6 to 8 p.m. @ Fire Station #201
360 E. 1st Street

April 22

Help Eliminate Auto Theft Event
4 to 6 p.m. @ Central Substation
120 N. Robson Street



Neighborhood Watch News:

Central District: The 1000 block of North Wedgewood began 2004 with a New Year's celebration that attracted more than 100 people from the surrounding neighborhood. Various donations assisted in making this Neighborhood Watch New Year's a success. For example, Central Christian Church donated tables and chairs, Americopy printed event fliers at cost and Veggie Depot donated all of the vegetables needed to make a fantastic salsa.

According to one block captain, "We had two live bands and a DJ to provide a mix of music to the tastes of all that came. We did a ball drop at midnight and the kids played basketball and danced. It was a great party!"

Dobson District: Block Captain Linda Murphy, a resident of Marlborough Mesa, recently led "Activate Your Neighborhood," one of six workshops offered during the "Working Together: Growing Great Neighborhoods" conference. Among other topics, Murphy stressed the importance of grass-roots efforts, and how they will result in a close-knit community.

In conclusion, active neighbors are good neighbors, and active neighborhoods are likely to be safer, more attractive and more peaceful!

Attention Neighborhood Watch Captains: Be the Source for the Force . . . VOLUNTEER!

**Are you a people person?
Do you like helping those in
need?**

You can present...

Neighborhood Watch Programs!

Would you like to take your experience as a Neighborhood Watch Captain to a new level? As a Neighborhood Watch Volunteer you will be assisting the crime prevention efforts of the police department by conducting Neighborhood Watch meetings in place of a Crime Prevention Specialist.

- You must possess a valid driver's license.
- You must be able to work days, early evenings and possibly some weekends.
- You will be speaking to various sizes of audiences.

- You must be able to deal with difficult people.

As a volunteer you will be trained by a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator and other Neighborhood Watch volunteers. You will be required to commit to a minimum of 8 hours per month. Due to the amount of training, at least one year of service commitment is required.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer in the Neighborhood Watch program,

contact:

**Linda Bailey
Volunteer Coordinator
Mesa Police Department
(480) 644-2073**

